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M.W.A.K. Columbian, Vol. 1, No. 27

Mason-Walsh-Atkinson-Kier Co.

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M. W. A. K.

COLUMBIAN

SAFETY
DEPARTMENT

MASON-WALSH-ATKINSON-KIER CO.
BUILDERS OF COULEE DAM

MASON CITY
WASHINGTON

Vol. 1 No. 27

M. Pete Shrauger--Editor
Safety Engineer

December 27, 1935

THE ONE DAY

With a staff in his hand, a small group of followers at his back, the man with the white hair, trailing ropes, stood before the volcano. Through torture, misery, oppression and butchery he had led the group to a new home. A proclamation he made, a belief that resulted, has concerned the influence that today guides the lives of 800,000,000 people. That was 3200 years ago, and yet it gives added significance to a December day observed here at the site for the dam.

Why is it that your child, or a child you know, hangs stockings up of a Christmas eve? Why is it that gifts are made? That Christmas is a day of jollity? Why the differences in observances and in emotions? Why the special Christmas services?

The Christian root that eventually led to one observance began with Moses and his followers at Mount Sinai in what became the Holy Land. Here the group dedicated itself to one God, Yahveh or Jehova. In early history few saw Yahveh as anything other than a kind of stern, jealous warrior. Eventually the conception changed.

set by internal war. The land of Israel divided into Israel proper and into Judah. Then invasion resulted. The Phoenicians, Philistines and eventually the Romans sent bloodshed, torture and exile upon the Jews. Of ten houses of families by 722 B.C., Judah alone was left. Critical reviewers justify her existence by the faith of her people, the faith that some day One would come on earth to initiate a new era.

He who was born, the son of Mary, in Bethlehem, land of Nazareth, was the Messiah who prophets for 500 years had more positively said would come. Gospels relate His birth and His life. They continue with the well-known bright star in the heavens and the wise men, the shepherds watching, the babe in the manger.

Later his hurried trial, testimony to the fear of His power by his enemies, and the pressure sentence of death by Pontius Pilate is well known. His crucifixion and the Gospel accounts of His rise and ascension brought Christianity as the state religion for even the once-conquering Roman Empire 1600 years ago. As dark and awful as were the Dark Ages, how much darker they might have been without the Faith.

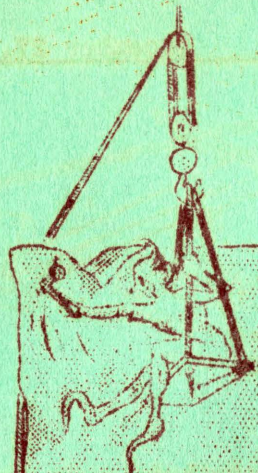
The land where the small band of
Jews settled, was be-

(Continued on Page 5)

A Merry Christmas to All



W. H. H. H.



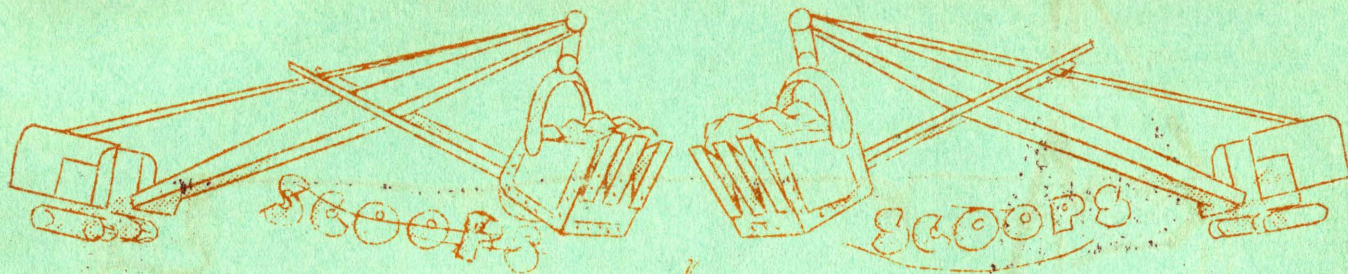
Now that the Christmas season is at hand and 1935 is drawing to a close, I want to thank you for your wholehearted cooperation throughout the year. Without it the records made on the Grand Coulee Dam would not have been a reality. I want each of you to know that your efforts and interest in your work have been appreciated, and hope that the birth of the new year will bring inspiration to even greater success. I wish you all a bright and merry Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness.

Sincerely,



H. P. Meyer

UNION



A merchant who was told that he had but a month to live, called in a lawyer and said:

"Fix it so that my overdraft and notes at the bank go to my wife. She can explain them.

"My equity in my car goes to my son. He will have to go to work to keep up the payments.

"Give my 'goodwill' to the supply houses. They took some awful chances on me and they are entitled to something.

"My equipment you can sell to the junkman. He has had an eye on it for several years. And I want six of my creditors to act as pallbearers. They have carried me so long they might as well finish the job."

---oOo---

It was the Christmas season and the wife had been put on the budget plan. At the end of each week she and her husband would go over the accounts together. Every once in a while he would find an item "G.O.K., \$3" and a little farther on, "G.O.K., \$6.00."

Finally he said, "My dear, what is this 'G.O.K.'?"

"God Only Knows," she replied.

---oOo---

PREVENTION MAY TAKE ONLY AN INSTANT;
BUT THE CURE---HOW LONG?

---oOo---

In her first year in school Mary said to her father one evening: "Daddy, I was late to school this noon. Do I get a spanking?"

Daddy asked the cause and Mary said: "They didn't ring the last bell long enough."

---oOo---

Girl (who had just been robbed): "Help! Help! I've lost my own pay and my aunt's pay, too."

Cop (on the job as usual): "Cut out the Dog Latin, lady. Just tell me in your own words what happened.

"To what do you attribute your remarkable health?"

"Well," replied the very old bull cook, "I reckon I got a good start on most people by bein' born before germs was discovered, thereby havin' less to worry about."

---oOo---

ONE WAY TO KEEP FROM GROWING OLD
IS TO TINKER WITH THE MACHINE WHILE THE
ENGINE IS RUNNING IN A CLOSED GARAGE!

---oOo---

Two women were discussing the sad case of a financier who had failed.

"Poor George," said one. "Did he accept his failure like a man?"

"Exactly like a man," said the other, "He blamed it on his wife's extravagance."

---oOo---

Judge (in traffic court): "I'll let you off with a fine this time, but another time you're so careless I'll send you to jail."

Driver: "That's exactly what I predicted."

Judge: "What do you mean?"

Driver: "Fine today--cooler tomorrow."

---oOo---

Street cleaner (explaining hair on his shoulder to his wife): "I repeat, my dear woman, it was a blonde horse."

---oOo---

After the basketball game, having just refused a drink and a smoke, the new member explained as follows:

"Gentlemen, it may surprise you, but I do not drink, smoke, swear, or run around with women. In fact, I have but one vice."

"What's that?" someone asked, and the new member replied, "Well, I lie just a little."

---oOo---

Heredity is something a father believes in until his son starts acting like a fool.

---oOo---

"Have you a letter opener?"

"Yes, my wife."

THE ONE DAY

(Continued from Page 1)

Such a mention is not a history of the birthday itself so much as it is a brief of what lay behind the day—a suggestion of the importance of a birthday that later became recognized throughout the realm of Christianity. December 25th is not positively identified as the actual birthday of Christ—for none know—but it is chosen as such.



The first Christmas was held in Alexandria, Egypt, on May 20th, about 20 years after Christ's death. The day also has been selected in April and in January, but in the year 300 December 25th was chosen. December 25, according to ancient reckoning,

is the day when the sun is at its farthest point south and is at a standstill, ready to turn northward. That day was also a birthday for a diety of the ancients. As for the month itself, it has always been one of great festivity, a season of merriment and rejoicing.

Northern people went out to cut Yule (December) logs for fires and decorated their homes with the red and green of holly, and gathered mistletoe from oak branches. After the birth of Christ they continued their customs as a part of rejoicing over the founding of a new faith.

During the Middle Ages Christmas became the greatest of popular feasts. Many of the Christmas carols of today were sung then. In Shakespeare's day in England feasting lasted 12 days. In 1644 Parliament declared December 25 as a day of fast, as did the New England Puritans, but the declaration was repealed after 1688. The name for the day comes from "Christ's Mass" in England.

The Dutch settlers in New York brought Santa Claus, or St. Nicholas—the patron saint of children, the giver of gifts, with his reindeer, sleigh, stockings at fireplaces. Observance of Christmas and rec-

ognition of it as also a children's day is nearly universal in the Christian world.

In some Baltic lands Kris Kringle, the Christ child, is supposed to bring gifts. In France children place wooden shoes on the hearth for presents from Father Christmas. In Italy presents are drawn from the "Urn of Fate," with its disappointment when some packages are blanks—a custom of ancient Rome—but with all children receiving gifts before the ceremonies are over. In England carols are sung under windows.

The Christmas tree, with the gold star and lights, may date back to Roman days, but the first known appearance was along the Rhine river in the 16th century. Three hundred years later the use of a Christmas tree was practiced all over Christianity.

Sometimes a bird's Christmas tree, with bits of apple, suet, nuts and the like is placed outside for the birds. Often, as here, the Community Christmas tree replaces the street festivals of Italy and Spain.

Likewise the day remains here the acknowledgement of a religion partly acknowledged 3200 years ago and brought positively to the light by more than a mere Personality, celebrated as having been born exactly 1935 years ago. This is combined in a celebration of giving to others. Remembrance of the One Child is paramount. Perhaps that remembrance has brought added consideration to all children on Christmas day. In the light of the One Child, do not all children deserve consideration?



--oOo--

WITH NIGHT TRAFFIC DEATH RATES26 TIMES DAY RATES--DOES THAT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

--oOo--

In Brett pit, where maximum cuts are 40 feet wide, 76 acres have been stripped.



FROM ONE MATCH

A man struck a match to light a cigarette. The burning match-head flew and ignited the decorations on a Christmas tree. A fire resulted and three children and their mother lost their lives, three others were critically burned, and the home was destroyed. This was an actual case.

Fire is perhaps the most serious hazard connected with Christmas and succeeding celebrations. Matches and smoking materials, lighted candles, electrical short circuits, and sparks from a fireplace are some of the chief sources of fire.

Keep inflammable material away from any source of fire. Avoid lighted candles. Have a spark guard in front of any open fire. Have an electrician wire electrical appliances. A fire extinguisher ought to be near.

Such precautions may seem unnecessary, but danger always arises unexpectedly. Far better to provide safeguards and not use them than to chance losing all by not having them.

---oOo---

ANY PERSON WHO CAN PLAY A BAND INSTRUMENT has a chance of playing with the Mason City band if he will apply at the Fire Station.

BORN at the Mason City hospital-----

Dec. 20, to Mr. and Mrs. George Owens of Coulee Dam, a daughter.

Dec. 20, to Mrs. Edith Douglas of Grand Coulee, a daughter.

---oOo---

FIRST-AID MANUALS?

Because first-aid manuals will not be off the press of the Government printing offices at Washington, D.C., until Jan. 15, manuals will not be available for distribution until shortly before February. Announcement of the day of delivery will be made later.

---oOo---

THANKS-

In appreciation of the unusual patience and courtesy of patrons, the Mason City post office force extends sincere wishes for a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

---oOo---

A new automatic start-stop clock for back room work has been installed in the Mason City theater.

---oOo---

The Christmas spirit has taken over Mason City. Decorations are plentiful in the Coulee Trading store, the Recreation hall, Mess hall, restaurant, reading room, fire station and other places. The laundry used a special Christmas wrapping paper. The Mess hall carries a colorful series of looping cedar boughs, bells, streamers and other decoration.

SPECIAL

For One Week Only

One man's hat cleaned and blocked for only 75 CENTS when accompanied by a suit or overcoat
---Dec. 30 to Jan. 4---

MASON CITY LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANERS

Phone 72

Phone 72

Holiday & New Year Greetings
from
DOCTORS ALBRIGHT & BEASLEY
Dentists

"Across from the Coulee Trading"
Specialists in Dental Work
Complete Laboratory Equipment
X-RAY

Phone 69-R

Phone 69-R

“

The Most
Important
Gift To
Your
Family
Is

YOUR SAFETY



12-24-35

LINDMAN

Church

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Services for Sunday, Dec. 29, 1935::

9:45 a.m. Sunday School.

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship in charge of the Rev. W. W. Sloan, Ph. D., from Baker, Oregon.

7:00 p.m. Christian Endeavor.

8:00 p.m. Song Service, conducted by the Rev. Sloan.

CATHOLIC CHURCH—Father A. Farrelly, pastor

Mass will be said in St. Benedict's church, Mason City, at 9 a.m. and in the American Legion hall, Coulee Center, at 11 a.m. Instructions for children will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. Confessions will be heard Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

---oOo---

In commemoration of the birth of Christ, midnight mass was held at St. Benedict's Church, Mason City, Tuesday. Mass was also said in Coulee Center Wednesday at 9 a.m. and in Mason City at 11 a.m.

---oOo---

Nineteen bents for the upstream concrete-carrying trestle have been erected.

---oOo---

GLOVED HANDS DEFEAT SHARP EDGES AND SPLINTERS!

---oOo---

B-type grout holes have reached a distance of 4740 feet, 4/5th of a mile, and had taken 10,987 sacks of cement by last Sunday. This is an average of about 69 sacks for each hole. The first took 502.

---oOo---

Greetings

WASHINGTON HOSPITAL ASS.

COLUMBIA GARAGE ~

RECREATION HALL ~

MASON CITY HOTEL ~

MESS HALL ~

SERVICE STATION ~

LAUNDRY &

DRY CLEANERS

The Mason City high school basketball five stopped Grand Coulee high 35 to 21 with some sensational last half shooting Thursday of last week. At half time Mason City led 16 to 14.

---oOo---

The Columbia river, second only to the Mississippi in the United States, has dropped two and one-third feet in the last two months to reach level 935 with a flow of about 40,000 cubic feet per second or about 300,000 gallons per second. This is a drop of 36 2/3 feet from the high point on June 19, or a flow difference of nearly nine times the present rate.

---oOo---

BEWARE OF CHILLS— THEY OFTEN MEAN SEVERE ILLNESS!

---oOo---

IT HAS EVERYTHING

A new souvenir so finely made that only a magnifying glass will bring out all its details has appeared in Mason City. The medal, a trifle larger than a half dollar, is made of gold-colored metal called Egyptian bronze or gildine metal, and is reputed to hold its brightness permanently.

The final design, worked out by Fred N. Ludwig, local jeweler, is the result of much planning and consultation with MWAK, USBR and Columbia Basin officials. The coin is authoritative and the die work depicts exact proportions.

The front face of the coin has the reproduction of the finished project, showing the dam, both power houses, the new steel highway bridge and part of Government Camp. The design came from a photo furnished by the USBR. The reverse side shows an electric generator, to signify power development; wheat sheaves, to represent agriculture, and a modern electric shovel to symbolize workmen and contractors.

The inscription reads to commemorate the beginning of the Grand Coulee dam and the Columbia Basin project in 1934, when the present project started. Additional details, such as an MWAK and a No. 4 on the shovel, can be seen under a glass. Medals are on display in the jewelry window of the Coulee Trading company store.

---oOo---

MASON CITY THEATRE

"REMEMBER LAST NIGHT?"

EDWARD ARNOLD · CONSTANCE CUMMINGS · SALLY EILERS

FAST SOCIETY ON A SENSATION SPREE!

FRI SAT

Miriam

HOPKINS

Splendor

WITH

JOEL McCREA



SUN MON TUES

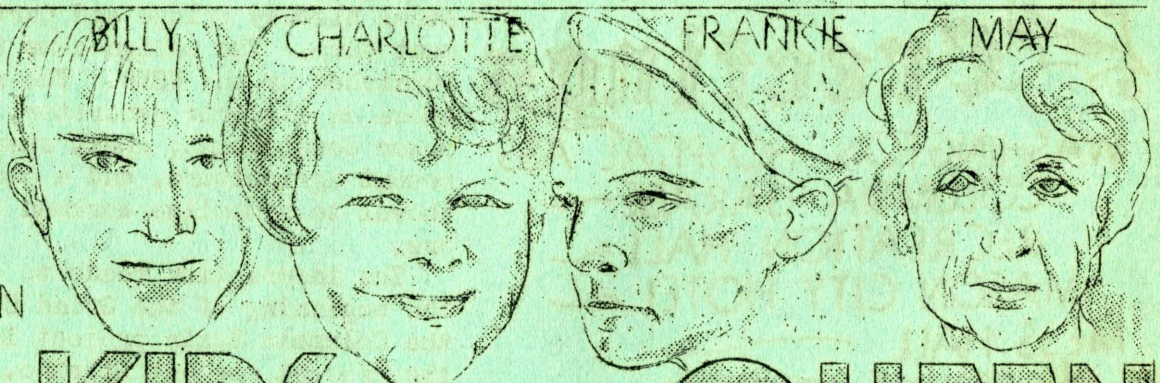
BILLY

CHARLOTTE

FRANKIE

MAY

BURRUD
HENRY
DARRO
ROBSON



3 KIDS AND A QUEEN

WED, THUR,

Around The Dam

SANTA DID COME---

and 1200 Christmas stockings were distributed by the Associated Clubs of the Grand Coulee area at the Christmas party in Meade park Sunday afternoon. Distribution of gifts followed a musical program under the chairmanship of Mrs. L. F. Parker. Thirty special automobiles and two stages afforded transportation for children not otherwise provided for. Double-parked automobiles completely encircled Meade park. Under the direction of Miss Maxine Lawson, social welfare worker, clothing and other material was accumulated and distributed to needy families. Two weeks of wide investigation were spent over the entire area in order to miss no families or children.

---oOo---

ORDER TUNNEL FORMS

An order has been sent in for fifty special steel concrete forms for 36-inch grout tunnels. They are of special design, 36 inches in diameter and five feet long. Of collapsible make, they can be removed from concrete easily and can be used over and over again.

---oOo---

DON'T CLEAN, OIL OR REPAIR MACHINERY IN MOTION

---oOo---

HELP CHILDREN

To relieve study conditions for school children in Elmerton, the Welders' benefit dance will be given at the mess hall Dec. 31, New Years eve.

---oOo---

According to recent computations, the present 20 blocks with about 13,000 yards of concrete Tuesday will take 1,180,000 yards of concrete. Such a figure is not for completed blocks but for "letter" arrangements, such as E-12.

---oOo---

First pre-cut forms arrived Dec. 18.

ADD TO READING ROOM

Seventy-five volumes were added to the workmen's reading-writing room Saturday. These include a complete 25-volume set of Alexander Dumas, books by London, Conrad, Zane Grey and others. The total number of books, ranging from light fiction to non-fiction, now reaches 160. Other books, and especially recent magazines are needed, and also other furniture. Workmen are offering to take charge of the room during their spare time, but more are needed. Any man who will volunteer to take charge can see Earl Myers, James McGrath, Mrs. Robert Telford, or inquire at the room...BOOKS AND MAGAZINES ARE NOT TO LEAVE THE ROOM!

---oOo---

NEW KIND OF DAM

Not water but boulders is the material to be held back by a dam at the gravel plant. Already 65-feet high, 50 feet of logs will be added above the crusher house. This will protect boulders from the raw stack pile from dropping upon the crusher house.

---oOo---

NEED 40 COVERS

The first five of 40 canopies to cover poured concrete are completed. These can be fabricated at the rate of one a day and use about 360 lineal feet of angle iron or nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons. They are to be covered with tarpaulin, with an electric heater installed under the top.

---oOo---

Silas B. Mason, Chairman of the MWAK, left for New York Saturday morning.

---oOo---

First pouring into block 40, Thursday of last week.

---oOo---

Paul Lattner, Company structural engineer, left Sunday morning to join the PWA at Bend, Oregon.

---oOo---

About 230,000 yards remain on the East side, except for cofferdam excavation.

FOUNTAIN

DRUG

GROC

DRY GOODS

MEAT

CIGAR

THE COULEE TRADING &
COMPANY MANAGEMENT
WISHES TO THANK MOST
CORDIALLY ITS MANY
FRIENDS FOR THEIR
LOYAL SUPPORT THIS
PAST YEAR AND WE
WANT YOU TO KNOW
THAT WE WILL DO OUR
VERY BEST TO MERIT
YOUR CONTINUED
PATRONAGE.

VEG

CAND

JEWELS

STAT

FURIN

RADIO

WE WISH YOU ALL A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

HDWR

RUGS

SINCERELY

MAC

TOYS

Almond

W. E. Allen

SHOES